By Lillian Nordica

Her Own Early Experience-Why Italy Is Best Field for Training After Foundation Is Laid-"Genius Is Willing to Lay the Foundation of Her Structure Unobserved "- Several Languages Required-Self-Command Vital -Singers Must Be Absternious -"Self-Denial Required to Keep Fresh for One's Art"-Training That Is Needed Before Summit Is Reached.

(Copyright by J. R. Bowles.)

(Mme. Nordica's first appearance

The singer who would have a career must begin almost in infancy, unconsciously, perhaps, at first, and directed of ontimes by the tender training of a far-seeing mother, as was my own good fortune. Later, as the years advance and the aim and end of things became more surely recognized, art assumes the place of first importance in one's life; if it does not, there is no call to a career. But all this period of preliminary training and hard work is but the preface to the book which holds so many chapters.

When a young woman steps out on the stage she emerges from the private schoolroom of the studio into the public one of the theater. There her hardest lessons have to be learned, her hardest battles fought. Much may present itself to her in a light that will disillusionize, but the beauty and nobility of her art will grow more strongly with her appreciation and prove at once her supreme comfort and compensation for the unpleasant side of things.

In the making of a prima donna there is nothing more important than recognizing an opportunity when it arrives. The great chances are not presented at the very outset.

vividly of an experience of my own. in depicting a scene on canvas must When Mr. Gilmore, then in the zenith work with enthusiasm, imagination, of his success, offered me an engage- fervor and ample technique. The moment to tour in concert with his or- ment, however, that he loses the qualganization, many friends considered it lty of self-command, he loses as well band," as they put it. But I went singer conditions are identical. muletly ahead and accepted the opporpreparations for a grand opera career. control.

The darkest moments and the most serious misgivings are apt to precede here anything so well recognized as the best success. After singing Elsa the fact that a singer must lead the in "Lohengrin" in America and Eng- most abstemious of lives, enjoying land, I accepted the invitation of Mme. pleasures aiways in moderation, but Wagner to create the role at the fest never in excess. Another truism, and spiel performance in Baircuth. The yet one that is not always recognized ordeal was a severe one, and days of by the layman, is the fact that no arduous study and rehearsal followed singer can safely give way to a dismy arrival there. Diversions were play of temper, for nothing is more planned for me by the great com- injurious to the voice. Much has poser's widow, and the members been said and written of the giving of her family to lighten the strain way by singers to fits of ill temper upon my mind and every faculty, but A long series of nagging worries and go where I might the great festspiel- nervous strain to which the singer is haus seemed to pursue me with its so frequently subjected may result in shadow.

have my things packed and flee from itually is not likely to sing very the ordeal. But after wakeful nights long. of anxiety the morning hours would In the days when the good old Italfind me again preparing for the test ian operas made up the complete repthat had been decided upon. When ertory of the most ambitious prima that test was over, the way had been donna the lines were easy ones compaved for the study of the Brunnhilde pared to the present. A knowledge of and Isolde, the final end and aim of literature, of life, through close observthose who would rightly claim the title ation-and always so fruitful a study of dramatic singers.

High ideals and high aims mark moment presents.

Italy is the best field for training, be- great personages of the music drama. cause of the great number of theaters in small towns where opera is concountry. When the foundation is once opera. laid comes the time to consider foreign study and not before. During the earlier and vitally important period than the beaten one.

first heard the expression "royal road closed forever. It is a punishment not to learning," said mournfully: "Please often in use, but is sometimes done in let us take some other way, for the cases of murder or constant theft, as, royal way seems always the hardest." without in any way injuring the health Unconsciously he spoke the truth— of the man, it prevents his committing as mementoes of the deepest interest

made along another path that for the plied except by the sultan's orders .time had seemed a pleasanter one.

The eartier that most important lesson of "think for yourself" is learned the earlier will you arrive at the destination where you would be. Use your own mind, do not rely on some one else to supply you with thoughts. Inquire into what you are doing, know the why and wherefore. That in itself does not imply that you are to question the correctness of views advanced by those of experience, but that you should find out how they reach such conclusions and their reasons for written: "Seven cities claim Homer doing so. To think for ourselves in dead through which the living Homes every direction and in every detail of begged his bread." our daily lives helps naturally, and as well in the advancement of our art-for after all our art is the result

"Genius is willing to lay the founda-

The being in a foreign country, such as Italy, so picturesque and full of color, awakens the imagination strongly. Music is there an old sweet story learned unconsciously through hundreds of years, until it is instinctive rather than acquired. How quickly the audiences in those little opera houses will tell you whether you have anything in you or not! They are not infallible, out if they do not receive a young singer with some degree of recognition it is time for that singer to undergo a rigorous self-questioning as to what the matter was, and then set about rectifying it to the best of her ability.

In early life, when we would have every season June, the months that come before the wished-for time seem long ones, but without their passage June would never be.

Every young prima donna longs some day to sing Brunnhilde, but before she can do that she must have (Mme. Nordica's first appearance in public was when at 15 years of age she sang as Lillian Norton in the choir of a church in Boston. Later she sang with Gilmore's band, and thus secured money to study abroad. After a few years in Italy she made her first great success in grand opera in St. Petersburg. Her later distinguished career in the capitals of Europe and in this country is well known. In private life she is Mme. Zoltan Dome.) Isolde stand among the immortals. Here again it is the same maxim: "Make haste slowly"-to do each thing that we undertake so well that it becomes a part of us before we go on to the next.

> Nowadays, when an opera singer is called upon to sing in three or four languages, the study of those lan- simply shaped by under-arm seams guages becomes of great importance and cannot be begun too early. It ton and buttonhole. The cap is made proves a source of surprise to those of the same material as the apron, but out a full knowledge of the meaning The medium size will require four and of each word and of the situation in one-quarter yards of 36-inch material which an aria is placed the singer for the apron and three-quarters of destroys its prime element. It is a yard for the cap. Sizes for small, impossible to make others feel that medium and large. which you do not feel yourself. How can we feel that which is sealed to us in meaning? It is out of the ques-

This leads again to an important matter and a critical one-excess of feeling. The moment that one loses command of one's self, in that moment is lost also the command of one's audience. Between genuine feeling and the loss of self-control there is as distinct a difference as between sen-One recollection comes to me very timent and sentimentality. A painter beneath the dignity of my position to the control of his subject and a blur "sing about the country with a brass and jumble is the result. With the

By a paradox, which is as well an tunity. The tour extended not only unalterable law, the singer must be pethroughout America but Great Britain, culturity responsive on the emotional and finally to Paris. At the end of it side, which means a highly developed I had saved sufficient to fulfill my nervous organization, and yet she plans and to go to Italy to make final must have her nerves under absolute

an occasional outburst, but the singer Oftener than once I was tempted to who gives way to such outbreaks hab-

-development through travel, and knowledge of the methods of older and out for one a thorny path which can more experienced artists, whose perbe trodden but a step at a time with formances cannot be too frequently the end always in view, and the un- witnessed, are helps in the cultivation greatly to the mode. Serge, mohair, varying rule to do to the best of one's of this higher mental equipment, powers and abilities the task that the Through studies in this direction and used with good effect. For a child of keepers of Rouen, Normandy, shows through one's own natural thought, there grows an ability to portray the In the making of a prima donna complex emotions attributed to the

For this, and for much more, we have Wagner to tnank, a composer stantly presented. First, however, be- whose music all are ambitious to sing. fore a thought of this debat in opera, but whose music must only be apthe American girl who wishes to be a proached after long and faithful servprima donna must have undergone a lice to that field which leads the equipthorough vocal training in her own ment safely up to it-the old Italian

A Terrible Punishment. A man suspected of treason in Moof study of the many who come to rocco was punished by having the flesh sing to me, I am sorry to acknowledge in his hand sliced, the wound filled that there frequently appears an im- with salt and the whole hand sewed patience on the part of the American up in leather. It is a common belief girl, gifted as she so often is, and that this punishment causes mortificaa desire to get there by short cut, tien to set in and that the hand desome royal road, easier and smoother composes, but such is not the case, for by the time the leather wears off the The little king of Spain, when he hand is rendered useless and remains the royal way is the hardest, but it is the crime a second time or for the the only right way. And it saves us hundredth time, as the case may be. the weary retracing of many steps It is a punishment that cannot be ap-Blackwood's Magazine.

> First Starved, Then Honored. Richmond is to build a \$5,000 monument to Edgar A. Poe. Costly monuments have been reared in honor of men who lived and died in poverty. When a fine monument was raised to Robert Burns his old mother remarked that Bobbie had asked for bread and they had given him a stone. Of the blind bard of Scio's isle it has been

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King's Suite at Windsor. To many people the most interesting parts of Windsor castle are the private apartments occupied by the late queen, and also by King Edward vorite family pictures, especially representations of all her children's weding event.

In this gallery she kept all her most prized possessions, one of which Gordon's Bible, open at his favorite you see fit." chapter. The late queen had always ter in private audience.

Another possession most dear to rara marble of herself.

Second Half of His Task. By careful saving for the last year and a half, a young man in Somerville clothes. Now he is waiting for an in ready for instant use. of everything that we have learned, reckoned the masterpiece of nature vitation.—Somerville Journal.

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James R. Keeler, retired farmer, of Fenner St., Cazenovia, N. Y., says: "About fifteen years ago I suffered

with my back and kidneys. I doctored and used many remedies without getting relief. Beginning with Doan's Kidney Pills, I found relief from the first box, and two boxes restored me to good, sound condition. My wife and

many of my friends have used Doan's Kidney Pills with good results and I can earnestly recommend them." Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

ADVICE FROM ONE WHO KNEW.

Proof of Dire Results That Follow Change of Occupation.

"When I was district attorney," said Judge Sweney, of Shasta county, California, "I secured the conviction of Montana Jack, a highwayman, who was something of a humorist. When asked by the judge whether he had anything to say against sentence being passed upon him Jack admitted that he had no protest to make, but that he would like to give a few words of advice to the young men in the room. Permission being granted, Jack

"Boys, my advice to you is to stick to whatever you are doin'. Don't change your occupation, or you'll never get along in the world. Look at me. I was a successful burglar for years, never got caught, and collared lots of dough. Then I turned highwayman and got caught in my first hold-up. And here I am, all the result of changing my occupation. Whatever you are, boys, stick to it."-Woman's Home Companion.

BABY'S ECZEMA GREW WORSE.

Hospitals and Doctors Could Not Relieve Him-But Cuticura Remedies a Speedy, Permanent Cure.

"Eczema appeared when our baby was three months old. We applied to several doctors and hospitals, each of which gave us something different every time, but nothing brought relief. At last, one of our friends recommended to us Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment. A few days afterwards improvement could be noted. Since then we have used nothing but Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment, and now the baby is six months old and is quite | National Editorial Association and cured. All that we used was one cake of Cuticura Soap and two boxes Cuticura Ointment, costing in all \$1.25. C. F. Kara, 343 East 65th Street, New York, March 30, 1906."

And He Was Not German.

One of our third grade teachers noticed a little fellow the other day during a penmanship lesson who was eviting his whole soul into his efforts to make his results look like the teacher's copy upon the blackboard.

Thinking such devotion worthy of Chicago. special reward she passed up the aisle to give him an encouraging pat upon the head and the regulation smile of approval. As she drew near she noticed that his lips were moving, and he compared it with his copy and muttered audibly, "damit," "damit;" then ceiver. "Here's a man who has just screwed up his courage and his lips for a new attempt. The teacher passed on without distracting his mind from his work.-Journal of Education.

Cannon May Break Record. Of the congressmen who have government, more than 12,000 individmore. The longest service was that well adopted to the washable mate ber when he died, Mr. Cannon, who comes next, has served 32 years. gress he will, if he lives to the end of his term, take the first place in the

list of veterans.-Youth's Companion. Still Normandy's Heroine. One of the favorite postal cards flannel, gingham and pique may all be offered for sale to tourists by shop eight years three and one-eighth yards a modern feminine compatriot of Joan quired. Sizes for 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. gent the great French heroine spin-

> They Tightened Up. "I presume that your failure showed you that you had a great many close

friends? "That's what it did! The closest bunch of friends any man ever had."

-Fort Worth Record. Modern doctors think it is better to take a patient's money than his

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It is worth knowing that a change and Queen Alexandria. The suite is in feod can cure dyspepsia. "I deem approached from a small circular hall, it my duty to let you know how Grapehung round with the late queen's fa. Nuts food has cured me of indigestion. "I had been troubled with it for years, until last year my doctor recdings, which she always had painted ommended Grape-Nuts food to be used every morning. I followed instructions and now I am entirely well.

"The whole family like Grape-Nuts, we use four packages a week. You was a crystal case containing Gen. are welcome to use this testimonial as

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When the nervous system is run down, the machinery of the body works badly. Grape-Nuts food can be used by small children as well as has just acquired a suit of evening adults. It is perfectly cooked and

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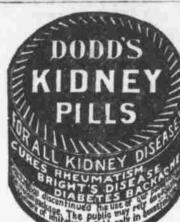
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